Amendment and Response Attorney Docket No.: IBM-013

Serial No.: 10/814,978

Page 2

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [00036] with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary process for determining (step 110 of FIG. 6) (step 110 of FIG. 7) the sharing area 82. The sharing computer 14 sends (step 112) a request to (i.e., polls) the viewing computers 18 for their display allocations. In an alternative embodiment, no request is sent and the viewing computers transmit their display allocations automatically at the beginning of a sharing session or when a change in the dimensions of their display allocations occurs. Display allocations are received (step 114) and compared to each other to determine the smallest value for each display dimension. For example, the display allocations provided by the viewing computers 18 can include rectangular dimensions, i.e., the width W_v and height H_v available for showing the sharing area 82 expressed in pixels. The dimensions of the sharing area 82 are then determined (step 116) to be the smallest width W_v and smallest height H_v. Consequently, all viewer displays 20 have available pixels to show the sharing area 82 without loss of contents.

Please replace paragraph [00037] with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 9 illustrates the position of the sharing area 82 in the sharer display [[20]] 16 for three different positions of the sharer cursor 94. In general, the sharing area 82 remains centered about the cursor 94 as shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B. The position of the sharing area 82 changes to follow, or "track," the position of the cursor 94. In one embodiment, the sharing area 82 tracks the cursor 94 only if the cursor 94 is moved outside the current sharing area 82. If the cursor 94 is moved near the edge of the sharer display [[20]] 16 as shown in FIG. 9C, the sharing area 82 is prohibited from extending beyond the sharer display [[20]] 16. Once the distance from the cursor 94 to the right edge of the sharer display [[20]] 16 is less than half the width of the sharing area 82, movement of the sharing area 82 to the right is halted so that the right edge of the sharing area 82 is coincident with the right edge of the sharer display [[20]] 16. Similarly, the sharing area 82 is restricted from extending beyond the top, bottom and left edges of the sharer display [[20]] 16.

Amendment and Response Attorney Docket No.: IBM-013

Serial No.: 10/814,978

Page 3

Please replace paragraph [00038] with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 10 is a flowchart representation of an embodiment of a method 200 for tracking the sharing area 82 according to the position of the sharer cursor 94. The method includes 200 determining (step 210) a new position of the cursor 94 according to the average position of the cursor 94 during a predetermined interval. The duration of the interval is selected to prevent rapid adjustments in the position of the sharing area 82 in the viewer displays 20 in response to fast movements of the cursor 94 in the sharer display [[20]] 16. The new location of the sharing area 82 is determined (step 220) from the average position of the cursor 94 during an interval of time subsequent to the last cursor position determination. In one embodiment, the sharing area 82 moves in the sharer display [[20]] 16 only if the new cursor position is different from the previous cursor position and if the new cursor position is outside the previous sharing area 82. If it is determined (step 230) that the sharing area 82 would extend outside the sharer display [[20]] 16 based on the new cursor position, adjustment in the position of the sharing area 82 is limited (240) to prevent it from leaving the sharer display [[20]] 16. The display data corresponding to the current sharing area 82 is then sent (step 250) to the viewing computers 18.